

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below:

Claims 1-34 (Cancelled).

Claims 35-76 (Cancelled).

Claims 77-105 (Cancelled).

106. (Currently Amended) A method for measuring acetaldehyde present in a polymer, comprising the steps of:

providing an airtight container with a seal;

collecting gaseous acetaldehyde emitted by a polymer sample disposed within said airtight container;

extracting gaseous acetaldehyde from a emitted by said polymer into a confined space an airtight syringe;

reacting said gaseous acetaldehyde with an acetaldehyde-reactive reagent coated on a inert reagent carrier in said confined space provided within a barrel of said airtight syringe;

contacting said reacted acetaldehyde-reactive reagent with a reagent solution developer to obtain a detectable response; and

measuring said response to obtain an acetaldehyde reading.

107. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 106, wherein said extracting step further includes a step of raising the temperature of said polymer.

108. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 106, further including the step of agitating said ~~reagent solution~~ developer for reducing the duration of said contacting step.

109. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 106, further including the step of heating said ~~reagent solution~~ developer for reducing the duration of said contacting step.

110. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 106, wherein said measuring step is a visual comparison of said response with a chart.

111. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 106, wherein said measuring step includes a photometric instrument for measuring said response.

112. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 106 111, wherein said measuring step is conducted using a transmission mode.

113. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 106 111, wherein said measuring step is conducted using a reflectance mode.

114. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 106, wherein said ~~reagent solution~~ developer is present in excess quantity for dissolving said reacted aldehyde-reactive reagent for forming a homogeneous solution.

115. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 106, wherein said ~~confined space is an polymer is disposed within said airtight container, said polymer disposed in said container.~~

116. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 106, wherein said ~~confined space airtight container~~ is formed by the combination of a preform and closure. 1

117. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 106, wherein said ~~confined space airtight container~~ is formed by the combination of a bottle and closure.

118. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 106, wherein said polymer is a preform.

119. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 106, wherein said polymer is a bottle.

120. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 106, wherein said polymer is in pieces.

121. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 106, wherein said aldehyde-reactive reagent comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of 3-methyl-2-benzothiazolinone hydrazone hydrochloride, 4-amino-3-hydrazino-5-mercaptop-1,2,4-triazole, 2-hydrazinobenzothiazole, 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazone, 5-dimethylaminonaphthalene-1-sulfohydrazide, 2-diphenylacetyl-1,3-indandione-1-hydrazone, 2-hydrazinobenzothiazole-4-nitrobenzenediazonium fluoborate, p-nitrobenzalhydrazone, 1,3-cyclohexanedione,

3,5-diaminobenzoic acid, 5,5-dimethylcyclohexane-1,3-dione, 2-hydroxycarbazole, dimedone and indole.

122. (Currently Amended) A method for measuring acetaldehyde present in a polyester polymer, comprising the steps of:

extracting gaseous acetaldehyde from a polymer into a ~~confined space~~ hermetic headspace;

reacting said gaseous acetaldehyde with an MBTH reagent disposed on an indicator alumina carrier in said ~~confined space~~ hermetic headspace;

contacting the reacted MBTH reagent with an oxidizer solution to obtain a color response; and

measuring the color response to obtain an acetaldehyde reading.

123. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein said extracting step further includes a step of raising the temperature of said polymer.

124. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 122, further including the step of agitating said ~~reagent~~ oxidizer solution for reducing the duration of said ~~contracting~~ contacting step.

125. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 122, further including the step of heating said ~~reagent~~ oxidizer solution for reducing the duration of said ~~contracting~~ contacting step.

126. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein said measuring step is a visual comparison of said response to a chart.

127. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein said measuring step is conducted with a spectrophotometer.

128. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 122, wherein said ~~confined space~~ hermetic headspace is an airtight container, said polymer disposed within said container.

129. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 122, wherein said ~~confined space~~ hermetic headspace is formed by the combination of a preform and closure.

130. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 122, wherein said ~~confined space~~ hermetic headspace is formed by the combination of a bottle and closure.

131. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein said polymer is a preform.

132. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein said polymer is a bottle.

133. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein said polymer is in pieces.

134. (Cancelled)

135. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 122, wherein said indicator comprises an aldehyde-reactive reagent coated on a solid particulate carrier MBTH reagent disposed on an alumina carrier is further applied to a support strip.

136. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein said oxidizer solution is an aqueous solution of ferric chloride.

137. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein said oxidizer solution is an aqueous solution of potassium ferricyanide.

138. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein said oxidizer solution is an aqueous solution of lead tetraacetate.

139. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein said oxidizer solution is an aqueous solution of periodic acid.

140. (New) A method for measuring acetaldehyde present in a polymer, comprising the steps of:

providing an airtight container having a seal;

collecting gaseous acetaldehyde emitted by a polymer sample disposed within said airtight container;

inserting a needle of an airtight syringe through the seal of said airtight container;

injecting an acetaldehyde-reactive reagent coated on an inert reagent carrier from within the needle of said airtight syringe into said airtight container;

reacting said gaseous acetaldehyde with said acetaldehyde-reactive reagent in said airtight container;

contacting said reacted acetaldehyde-reactive reagent with a developer to obtain a detectable response; and

measuring said response to obtain an acetaldehyde reading.

141. (New) The method of claim 140, wherein said extracting step further includes a step of raising the temperature of said polymer.

142. (New) The method of claim 140, further including the step of agitating said developer for reducing the duration of said contacting step.

143. (New) The method of claim 140, further including the step of heating said developer for reducing the duration of said contacting step.

144. (New) The method of claim 140, wherein said measuring step is a visual comparison of said response with a chart.

145. (New) The method of claim 140, wherein said measuring step includes a photometric instrument for measuring said response.

146. (New) The method of claim 145, wherein said measuring step is conducted using a transmission mode.

147. (New) The method of claim 145, wherein said measuring step is conducted using a reflectance mode.

148. (New) The method of claim 140, wherein said developer is present in excess quantity for dissolving said reacted aldehyde-reactive reagent for forming a homogeneous solution.

149. (New) The method of claim 140, wherein said airtight container is formed by the combination of a preform and closure.

150. (New) The method of claim 140, wherein said airtight container is formed by the combination of a bottle and closure.

151. (New) The method of claim 140, wherein said polymer is a preform.

152. (New) The method of claim 140, wherein said polymer is a bottle.

153. (New) The method of claim 140, wherein said polymer is in pieces.

154. (New) The method of claim 140, wherein said aldehyde-reactive reagent comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of 3-methyl-2-benzothiazolinone hydrazone hydrochloride, 4-amino-3-hydrazino-5-mercaptop-1,2,4-triazole, 2-hydrazinobenzothiazole, 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazone, 5-dimethylaminonaphthalene-1-sulfohydrazide, 2-diphenylacetyl-1,3-indandione-1-hydrazone, 2-hydrazinobenzothiazole-4-nitrobenzenediazonium fluoborate, p-nitrobenzalhydrazone, 1,3-cyclohexanedione, 3,5-diaminobenzoic acid, 5,5-dimethylcyclohexane-1,3-dione, 2-hydroxycarbazole, dimedone and indole.